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ER 7-8087

27 January 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Implementation of Killian Report,
NSC Action 1430:
Specific Recommendation C.8

1. By virtue of its action on 4 August 1955 (number 1430) the NSC "noted that the responsible agencies have concurred either in full or with qualifications in the following recommendations and will implement them as indicated in the comments." The comments as far as this Agency is concerned have been embodied in a memorandum from the DCI to Executive Secretary of the NSC dated 6 June 1955 under the subject of "NSC Action 1355" (TS#103738).

2. Specific Recommendation C.8 reads as follows:

"Intelligence applications warrant an immediate program leading to [REDACTED] in orbits around the earth. Construction of large surveillance satellites must wait upon adequate solution to some extraordinary technical problems in the information gathering and reporting and its power of supply, and should wait upon development of the intercontinental ballistic missile rocket propulsion system. The ultimate objective of research and development on the large satellite should be continuous surveillance that is both extensive and selective and that can give fine scale detail sufficient for the identification of objects (airplanes, trains, buildings) on the ground."

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This recommendation is one on which primary responsibility was assigned to other agencies, subject to coordination with CIA. Within

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the Agency the leadership for our secondary role would appear to belong to OSI. Our comment to the NSC on this recommendation states that Defense has consulted us and that we are aware of the recommendations which have our full concurrence and strong support. At such time as Defense does consult the Agency you will be informed. I would appreciate being kept abreast of any developments in this regard with respect to CIA's responsibility.

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, Jr.
Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Coordination

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Bissell signed
this then changed
his mind.

He'll talk
to you this
afternoon on it.

All others
signed & sent!